



6/16/1980 18:00:00  
The  
National Intelligence  
**Daily**

Published by the Director of Central Intelligence for Named Principals Only

Copy No. 241

TOP SECRET  
NOFORN/DCON

SATURDAY 8 APRIL 1978

NR

TOP SECRET

Approved for Release  
Date 14

TOP SECRET

THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY

2 SATURDAY 8 APRIL 1978

## CHILE

*Constitutional Rule Advance*

Chilean President Pinochet's decision to advance the timetable for a transition to constitutional rule was made in response to continuing internal and external pressure on him to normalize political life in Chile. The announcement follows other recent changes designed to improve the country's international image. [REDACTED]

In a nationwide speech on Wednesday, Pinochet said a new constitution will be ready by the end of the year and that a plebiscite could be held at some time thereafter. This advances by five years the schedule outlined by Pinochet last year.

Pinochet did not mention presidential elections and was vague about the overall timing. Nevertheless, his statement left the door open to even further modification.

Although he emphasized that it is necessary for the armed forces to retain

the "essence" of political power, Pinochet said civilians would share a larger role in government. He did not elaborate, but he may have been referring to the reorganization of the Christian Democratic Party, the country's largest, which was banned in March 1977. The party will be reluctant to participate at long as restrictions on political activity remain in force.

Among other measures taken in the speech, Pinochet offered a wide-ranging program to pardon or to commute the sentences of all prisoners convicted by military courts for violating national security laws before and after the 1973 coup. [REDACTED]

As many as 224 persons stand to benefit immediately. The releases will also close the books for all practical purposes on most cases that have interested human rights groups. [REDACTED]

1.50

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY

SATURDAY 8 APRIL 1978 3

NR

TOP SECRET

~~TOP SECRET~~

SATURDAY 8 APRIL 1978

THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY

NR

~~TOP SECRET~~